

# the Dalhousie Gazette

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The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication. The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6532.

## Editorial

### Not Just A B.A.

There it was, the first week of classes (if you managed to get registered), sights are set for the academic year after two weeks of relative relaxation in Orientation and introductions to this year's slate of professors.

If you are in first year and registered in the Arts program, you probably have not at this point decided what your major is going to be. You mumble something like "Undeclared Arts" when inquisitive aunts ask what you are taking, and feel uncomfortable when the nagging question "So what are you going to do with it?" pops up in conversation. After all, it's common knowledge that a B.A. means Bugger-All in today's specialized and ever-diminishing job market.

Herein lie the two popular misconceptions about post-secondary education in general and Arts degrees in particular: it is not applicable, and therefore you don't get a job when you graduate. Degrees in engineering, sciences, law, commerce, and even music are considered safer bets because in some way they can be measured by a physical or monetary output. So what can you do with a degree in history or english or philosophy if you don't want to go back to school for a couple of accounting courses so's you can work in a bank?

Be Analytical. That's what B.A. stands for. Be critical, learn to ask pertinent and piercing questions, creatively solve problems. There's lots of them around, even when your eyes are closed and your head is in the sand.

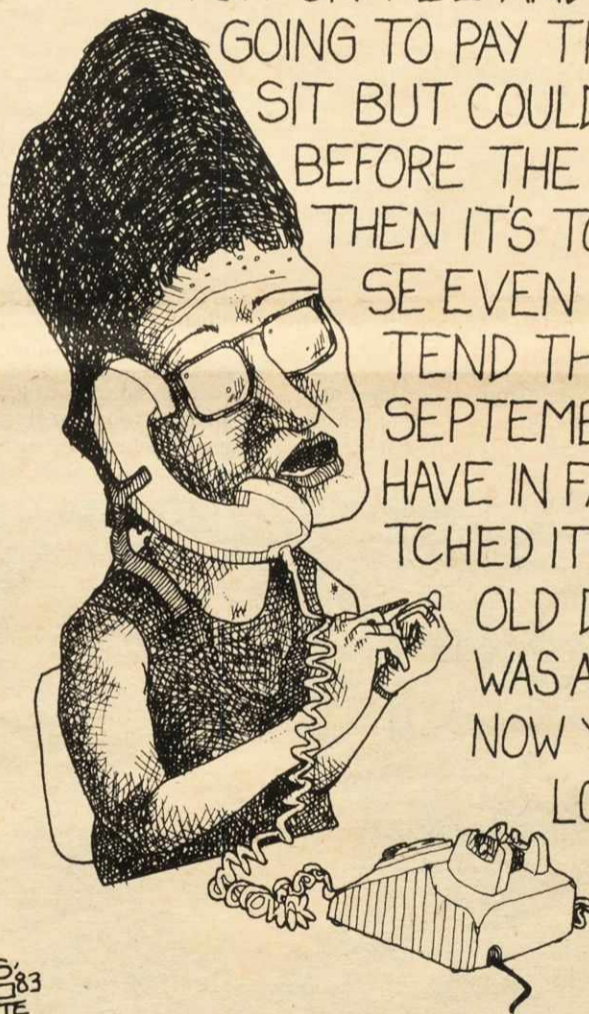
And the best way to practise this skill of being analytical is to get involved with some of the societies you will find in this issue's Societies' Supplement or with the Student Union and its committees.

Practise political science and psychology in committees or watch it in action in the Senate meetings, in the national and provincial student movement and when speakers so controversial come to Dal that members of the Halifax community are upset enough to fight about it. Learn first hand that history repeats itself when records aren't kept and people don't learn from their predecessors' mistakes. Then stick with history. Take the methodology of calculus and philosophy and apply it to find out why pornography is a crime and see that the senselessness of arms buildup, particularly that of a nuclear nature, just does not compute in human terms. Rediscover the beauty of a language in any tongue or period, and how it is a cultural reflection of more than just communication.

Humans differ from other animals because they are able to manipulate and create their own environment. Take this academic environment and go with it. In commonly understood terms, exploit it to the hilt and see what you can produce from it.

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WELL LET'S SEE NOW... IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR FULL TUITION FEE AND YOU WERE GOING TO PAY THE \$50 DEPOSIT BUT COULDN'T GET IT IN BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST THEN IT'S TOO BAD BECAUSE EVEN THO WE DID EXTEND THE DEADLINE TO SEPTEMBER 28 WE HAVE IN FACT NOW SWITCHED IT BACK TO THE OLD DATE WHICH WAS AUGUST 3! SO NOW YOU OWE US A LOT OF MONEY UNDERSTAND?



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### Reporting Moves

all kinds of things. Good news reporting moves bureaucratic roadblocks, moves people to make important decisions on issues, and ensures that bad craziness doesn't get out of hand in our society.

You could be one of these movers of society by joining the Gazette.

Reporting's a big responsibility, but you'll soon be caught up in the excitement and obsession that is being a reporter, not to mention being overwhelmed by the love and personal attention our talented editorial staff provides (hoo boy). You don't need experience to be a Gazette staffer — we'll provide the enthusiasm.

Be a Newsmaker —  
Join the Gazette.